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Dawn M. Berry Dawn M. Berry  
Name of Person signing Certificate Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
BENTON et al. )  
)  
Application No.: 10/076,209 ) Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
)  
Filed: February 14, 2002 ) Examiner: Unassigned

For: DRILLING FLUIDS CONTAINING AN ALKALI METAL FORMATE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 8, 2002

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the document listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of these documents is attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before expiration of the three-month period following the filing of the above-identified application and prior to issuance of a first official action on the merits.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the document cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

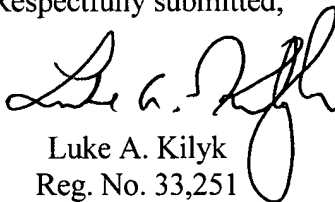
Information Disclosure Statement  
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/076,209

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies the document as prior art against any claim in this application and applicant determines that the cited document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

It is believed that no fee is required to make this a complete and timely filing. However, if it is determined that a petition or fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee associated with this statement to our Deposit Account No. 03-0060 and please consider this a petition.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: PTO-1449, w/6 Documents